

Policy on Cooperation

Purpose

To outline whether and to what extent IFOAM cooperates with other organizations and individuals.

IFOAM's involvement in events, including levels of involvement is dealt with in a separate policy.

Cooperation in cases where IFOAM or IFOAM internal bodies are requested to sign sign-on letters or petitions to decision makers is dealt with in a separate policy on sign-ons.

A case in which IFOAM has to call for a tender is regulated in a separate policy.

Definition:

Cooperation: working in common with commonly agreed-upon goals and possibly approaches or methods, instead of working separately or in competition.

Background

IFOAM is open to cooperation if serving its mission and goals.

IFOAM may be able to advance its mission and goals more effectively through cooperation than alone.

Through cooperation IFOAM may be able to make use of expertise, networks, contact and experiences not available by IFOAM internally (staff, World Board, internal bodies).

Through cooperation time and cost consuming tendering may be avoided, as most donors don't request tendering for projects applied for by NGOs.

Cooperation may avoid competition for funds with others working in the same field.

For others it may be advantageous cooperating with IFOAM in order to give an activity an international profile and support from the movement.

Through cooperation others can make use of IFOAM structures and networks.

Policy

Cooperation with others shall positively contribute to the accomplishment of IFOAM's goals and objectives and fit with its strategies and priorities.

IFOAM will cooperate with others if that has a value for IFOAM, if IFOAM does not have the capacity to implement a certain activity

and/or if it will result in additional benefits compared to if IFOAM did the same by itself.

IFOAM shall carefully assess project cooperation when bidding for tenders, which has been developed by a third party, including the aspect of competition with members.

IFOAM will not remunerate others for taking the risk of investing prior to cooperation but may grant compensation in case the other party is not involved in implementing the activity.

Others elaborating a substantial part or a full cooperation proposal and/or getting active in fund raising shall have a priority status as cooperation partner for future project implementation. In such cases the requirement for tendering is waived.

Within a cooperation IFOAM shall not step beyond its role as organization in organic agriculture worldwide.

Any decision on cooperation with others shall be assessed against the criteria as listed hereunder.

A reasonable proportion of which shall apply:

- The cooperation contributes to IFOAM's mission, goals and objectives.
- The cooperation has global relevance
- The cooperation is in compliance with IFOAM policies, procedures and positions.
- The cooperation adds value to IFOAM affiliates.
- The cooperation will raise funds from other sources than already existing IFOAM means
- The relationship with the cooperation partner is of strategic interest to IFOAM.
- The cooperation partner(s) or other circumstances of the cooperation will not compromise IFOAM's image.
- The cooperation partner is sufficiently qualified in the planned fields of activities. (Annex 2)
- The cooperation partner will add significant additional resources to the planned activities.

In case of cooperation the following conditions shall be fulfilled:

- A contract, written agreement, or memorandum of understanding, as appropriate, shall be signed.
- Transparency of the process
- The roles of the cooperation partners shall be clear. Annex 1 to this policy shall be used to identify the roles in cooperation on projects.
- Resources invested by IFOAM in cooperation shall be recognized as an investment of the organization and remuneration or other return on this investment must be considered and protected.
- In case the cooperation generates surplus income, IFOAM receives an equitable share.
- An activity shall be identified "in cooperation with IFOAM" if IFOAM deems this to be appropriate.
- In any kind of media activity the IFOAM's name and or logo are used, as IFOAM deems appropriate.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

Procedures

The Executive Director is mandated to formulate procedures as appropriate.

Implementation

The World Board shall evaluate and if necessary amend this policy end 2006.

Approved by the World Board, September 2005, Adelaide Australia

Annex 1 to policy on cooperation

Roles in cooperation

% Overhead

Elaboration of project proposal
Intellectual property right
Fund raising
Project holder
Project planning
Project management and
Implementation
(except administration)
Project administration
Project monitoring and
evaluation
Political guidance
Platform for stakeholder
consultation within the sector

IFOAM

Other

Annex 2 to policy on cooperation

Checklist on qualifications of the cooperation partner

- Proven capacity to implement the projected activity.
- Sufficient relevant technical experience
- Implementation qualifications like :
 - Advocacy activities
 - Preparation of publications
 - Events
 - Or others, depending on the cooperation
- Personnel envisaged implementing the project
- Capacity to handle and report on finances of the contracted size
 - Turnover of the previous year should exceed the contracted amount
 - Recent audit report